

JOHN - CHAPTER 8

1. What might change in your life if you had Jesus' attitude in John 8:28?
2. Try to compare the questions of John 8:33,48, and 53 with questions people might ask today. Are they similar?
3. Give one lesson you have learned from reading John 8.
4. Explain what it means to you to walk in the darkness. What does it mean to walk in the light?
5. Is there something from which you need to be set free? Pray and ask Jesus for truth and strength and let Him set you free!

JOHN - CHAPTER 8

The Pharisees brought the adulterous woman before Jesus as a trap. How would He react when presented with a problem of law verses mercy? If He chose mercy and did not condemn this women for her sin, He would show everyone that He did not follow the laws of Moses. If He chose law and condemned her for her sin, He would no longer be looked on as a loving, merciful leader. Jesus chose to do neither. Jesus knew the sins of the accusers as well as her sin. In John 8:7 Jesus is saying I dispute your qualifications for punishing someone else. They stood in the presence of Jesus and had a sense of their own sinfulness and could do nothing but walk away. The woman also could have walked away. She chose to stay, for she wanted and needed Him. He used a term of respect when He called her "Woman." Jesus looked to the cure of her sin, Himself.

In John 8:12 Jesus reveals that He is the light of the world and the light of life. In Jewish thought light was a supreme manifestation of God's glory. The Rabbis even said the name of Messiah was light.

In John 8:23 Jesus clearly states that He is not of this world. He also tells them the consequence of not believing. The whole of Jewish history was designed so that they would recognize the Messiah. Unfortunately their history is also a downward spiral of rejecting God's leadership and following the sinful leadership of men. Throughout the history of the Old Testament the Jewish leaders had rejected the words of God and His prophets.

The study of the book of John is to help us see that Jesus is who He claimed to be. When Jesus spoke the words of John 8:58 the people considered His statement blasphemy. "I am" is the same designation God used when Moses asked for the name of God. (See Exodus 3:14.) If Jesus were not God Himself, His statement would have been blasphemous. The Jews picked up stones to stone Him because they understood who He claimed to be.

The only condition for salvation is, by the grace of God, to believe that His Son, Jesus, is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Belief always expresses itself in action. True faith is expressed when we keep His words. How can we keep them if we don't read them? When we continue in His word, we enter into the truth of God. Our full personality is revealed through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

JOHN - CHAPTER 9

1. Record the steps that Jesus used to perform the miracle of healing the blind man. Why do you think Jesus accomplished this man's healing by a series of actions instead of just by a word?

2. Think of the progression of faith the blind man exhibited. See verses 11, 17, and 36. Why do you think the blind man was able to witness so powerfully?

3. What character qualities of Jesus do you see in this passage? Which ones would you like to see developed in your life?

4. If you had to tell someone in your own words who you think Jesus is and what He has done for you, what would you say?

If you are ever asked to defend your faith, always focus upon Jesus. He is the one undeniable truth, both who He is and what He has done for you.

JOHN - CHAPTER 9

Chapter 9 takes place the day after chapter 8. This is the only miracle recorded where the sufferer was afflicted from birth.

The Jewish leaders believed all personal suffering was the result of sin, either personal or from one's parents. Jesus was never concerned with the cause of sin but how to relieve it! We should never delve into secrets of another's life to make cruel surmises. Jesus cared for the person. The Pharisees cared for the concept of why this man was born blind. There is never a pat answer for suffering or any other abuse in this world. We do know that there is a Savior, who knows what it means to suffer.

Jesus always seems to have one thought during His earthly ministry. What does my Father want me to accomplish here? That thought will also be helpful in our daily walk.

The healing of the blind man reveals both inspiring and sad testimonies. Look at the reaction of the Pharisees. They would prefer to have found ways to discredit Jesus and the blind man rather than acknowledge the truth. They chose to be blind to the obvious miracle that was before them. Jesus interfered with their set ideas and authority structure, so they closed their eyes to the obvious.

The parents of the blind man are another sad example. They were more concerned about their standing in the synagogue than the fact that their son now could see. You would think that they would be overjoyed by this miracle. But they were afraid of what man would think rather than what Jesus had done. Then we have the glorious, bold, and inspired testimony of the blind man. Jesus then reveals Himself to the blind man. Jesus never leaves any person alone who witnesses about Him.

The Pharisees refused to see true light that was before them. They would soon lose what little light they had.

When we confess Jesus as Lord and begin to follow Him in our life there will be a cost. (John 9:34) What side do you choose? Are you holding on to some doubt or fear that prevents you from truly yielding your will to the living Savior? Consider the difference between what you now have spiritually, to what you could have in Christ. Christ provides unconditional love, personal companionship, and the knowledge of being filled with the presence of the Living God, able and sufficient to meet all your needs. (See Philippians 3:8, Luke 12:8.)

JOHN - CHAPTER 10

1. What are some differences between a true shepherd and a false one?
2. Is it true from this chapter that all religions lead to God? (See also John 14:6, Acts 4:12.)
3. How does John 10:16 apply to our lives today?
4. List the privileges and promises found in this chapter which apply to those who are Jesus' sheep.
5. Those who did not wish to hear Jesus prepared to stone Him. What do people today do to get rid of Jesus when they don't want to hear His claims?

JOHN - CHAPTER 10

Remember the phrase "I tell you the truth," is always used to correct a misunderstanding or to advance a new thought.

In this chapter Jesus reveals Himself as the Good Shepherd. In the mid-east, sheep were not bred so much for food but more for their wool. The shepherd protected his sheep from many dangers they would face. In the hills were wild animals, cliffs, and robbers. The shepherd always led his sheep and protected them with his rod. The shepherd talked to his sheep, and they grew to know and trust his voice. If someone else called to them, they would run away because they knew the voice of their true shepherd. Read Psalm 23 in the light of seeing Jesus as our true shepherd.

The word "saved" is an abused cliché in our Christian vocabulary, but an essential word of the faith. Most of us, because of pride and self-will, never like to admit we are lost and in need of a savior. To understand the Gospel is to realize that we in our own strength, goodness, or will can never enter the gates of heaven.

Here are the characteristics of the Good Shepherd:

- 1- Knows His sheep
- 2- His sheep know Him
- 3- The Shepherd knows God
- 4- Dies for His sheep
- 5- Seeks gentle sheep that follow His example, they learn from the shepherd
- 6- Loved by the Father
- 7- Always had His resurrection in mind

At the cross Jesus was the savior of the world. At the cross Jesus gave His life as a full and complete payment for the sin of the world. At the cross we must surrender our will, realizing we are incapable of paying for our sin, that only Jesus, our sinless Savior, could pay the price. It is when we claim the death and resurrection of Jesus as the payment for our sin that we are forgiven and saved.

God's sheep hear the voice of Jesus calling them to eternal life. (See John 10:10.) God created us in His image with an inner sense of eternity. Jesus claims He has the power to give eternal life. Do you hear Him calling to you? Jesus clearly states who He is in verse 30, "I and the Father are one."

Jesus is the unique Son of God who has dwelt with God from eternity. This is the crux of faith, the core of Christianity! Without Jesus being divine we have no savior.

There is a logical progression of faith or unbelief. Either Jesus is who He claimed to be or He is a liar and not capable of His claims. Each of us will be called to choose. We are not given the option of indifference. Which side have you chosen? Are you ready to receive what He will give you, with thanksgiving, in expectancy and assurance of salvation?

We cannot come to Jesus and still cherish sin in our heart. The Lord will not listen to someone who wants to come to Him on his own terms. If you are seeking to know Jesus and want to have the assurance of eternal life with Him, ask Him right now! Ask Jesus to cleanse you from your sin. Tell Him that you believe He is the Son of God sent down from the Father as a payment for the sin of the world and, most specifically, yours. Tell Him you believe in His resurrection and the power He has to enable you to live a life for Him as His child. Tell Him you want to follow and obey His leadership in your life. Ask Him for the power of His Holy Spirit to so fill your heart that you are a new person. Thank Him, for now you belong to Him. Praise be to God! (Reread John 10:27-30.)